Truck Also Struck

Beltway Sniper Hits Girl, Thick Fog Hides Escape

By Michael Drosnin 7/4/7
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A sniper shooting from a car on the Capital Beltway wounded a 17-year-old Massachusetts girl and struck an oil truck early yesterday morning, Maryland State Police reported.

According to police, a witness to one of the incidents said that the sniper, who used a small calibre rifle, was traveling with two other young men in a red car.

The wounded girl, Sharon Lee Cavanaugh, was grazed on the left side of the torso by a bullet that crashed through the rear door of the station wagon driven by her father, Franklin C. Cavanaugh. The Cavanaugh vehicle was moving south on the Beltway near Oxon Hill.

Neither Sharon nor the other occupants of the car, her mother and two young children, saw the gunman or his car in the thick fog at about 4 a.m., police said.

The girl was taken by the Oxon Hill Rescue Squad to Cafritz Hospital where she was treated for the flesh wound and released. Police said a fragment of the bullet was found in her clothing.

Several minutes earlier, and about a mile farther north on the Beltway, an oil truck driven by Clyde Haynes was fired upon. The bullet missed Haynes and struck the cab of the truck.

It was Haynes who identified the red car and the three young men traveling in a lane next to his. Haynes said he had seen one of the men aim a rifle at him through the car window and fire a single shot before the car sped away.

Shortly after midnight, a Bowie man reported to police that his car had been struck by a bullet on Rte. 50 near Annapolis.

The man, H. Melvin Stallings, could not identify the car from which he thought the shot was fired, and State Police in Annapolis said they thought it more likely that his car had been struck by a rock.

Police said they have no suspects for the two confirmed shootings, and only the scanty description by the truck driver to go on.